

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-10 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W
----- 020111

R 152140Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9133

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1059

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, CA

SUBJECT: COUNTRY-FINANCED SERVICE-- FOREST FIRE CONTROL

REF A) OTTAWA 120; B) STATE 36056

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM EXTAFF ACTING DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION USA DIVISION (WHITTLETON) RESPONDING TO REFTEL B PROPOSALS. LETTER STATES THAT US PROPOSAL WAS DISCUSSED IN PRINCIPLE AT FEBRUARY WINNIPEG MEETING OF CANADIAN COMMITTEE ON FOREST FIRE CONTROL, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF HEADS OF ALL FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL FOREST FIRE CONTROL AGENCIES IN CANADA. ACCORDING TO LETTER, ALL PROVINCES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND CANADA SHOULD NOT HAMPER "EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE MANY AGREEMENTS WHICH ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN THE PROVINCES AND USA STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES."

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, EXTAFF DISCUSSED SPECIFIC REF B PROPOSALS WITH PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ABOVE COMMITTEE. BOTH REPORTDLY FELT THAT PROPOSED PROCEDURES "MIGHT WELL HINDER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IS PROVIDED BY USA AGENCIES." SINCE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE ARE APPARENTLY INFREQUENT AND MADE ONLY IN EVENT OF ACTUAL FIRE, COMMITTEE LEADERS THOUGHT THAT PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (C) OF REF B, REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF AMEMBASSY AT TIME ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, "COULD INTRODUCE DELAYS
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WHICH MIGHT, IN FACT RENDER THE ASSISTANCE INEFFECTIVE

BY THE TIME IT WAS RECEIVED."

3. WHITTLETON NOTES HIS "INITIAL REACTION". THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COMMITTEE ARE "NOT ALTOGETHER WITHOUT FOUNDATION," AND ADDS: BEGIN QUOTE; IN THIS CONTEXT, AND NOTING YOUR COMMENT THAT THE INTENTION OF THE USA AUTHORITIES IS TO FACILITATE THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE, I WISH TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING THIS QUESTION: AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES, LISTING THE AGENCIES (U.S.A. FEDERAL AGENCIES AND CANADIAN PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL AGENCIES) AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN FIGHTING FOREST FIRES AND STATING THAT THE PAYMENT FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE IS TO BE ARRANGED RETROACTIVELY BETWEEN THE AGENCIES INVOLVED. IF THE USA AUTHORITIES SO WISH, THE NOTES COULD ALSO STATE THAT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN MADE TO THE AGENCY DIRECTLY CONCERNED, THE USA EMBASSY IN OTTAWA OR THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AS APPROPRIATE, BE INFORMED OF THE REQUEST. END QUOTE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED; EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON ABOVE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOC.
ENDERS

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NNN

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